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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**(Washington, DC)** – On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) \$100 million in grants to develop strategies for smart and sustainable housing, a first of its kind program stemming from President Obama's "Partnership for Sustainable Communities." Forty-five regional projects were approved for funding, including three in Illinois, one of which is in Chicago. HUD announced that the funding for Illinois, totally more than \$6 million, will support the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Peoria, and Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Rep. Gutierrez fully supported the grant made to CMAP and worked with Rep. Mike Quigley to secure the funding. Of the \$5 million originally requested to support CMAP, \$4.25 million was awarded. Even though the grant is not specifically for the Congressman's Fourth District, he said it was an important to the city overall.

"This is a solid federal investment in making Chicago greener, healthier, and more prosperous," Rep. Gutierrez said. "In order to be the best city in the world, we need to invest in economic competitiveness and the vibrancy of all of our neighborhoods. By connecting affordable housing with good jobs, quality schools, and efficient transportation, we create the building blocks for sustainable economic vitality."

According to HUD's press release:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning grant will link transportation, land use, housing, economic growth, the natural environment, and human and community development, with the overarching goals of improving livability and bringing about sustainable prosperity. The agency will create a new program to instill the region's existing GO TO 2040 plan and advance the *GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program*

creates new resources for technical assistance and coordinates with existing technical assistance activities. It will result in a series of innovative, replicable neighborhood-based projects in the Chicago region that support livability principles, implement GO TO 2040 objectives, and build capacity in local communities. LTA's focus on the community level is deliberate – in this region, land use regulation is a local responsibility, and the community level is where livability principles and place-based solutions must be applied.

"For Chicago to be great, it needs great neighborhoods and for neighborhoods to be great they need people and businesses and the infrastructure to spark economic activity and jobs," Rep. Gutierrez said. "This grant money will help create more housing choices for families and make neighborhoods more attractive to business that can then employ those families. It is an holistic approach to economic development with sustainability at its heart."

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